

**Introduced by Senator Block  
(Coauthors: Senators Anderson and Hill)**

January 9, 2014

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An act to add Article 3 (commencing with Section 78040) to Chapter 1 of Part 48 of Division 7 of Title 3 of the Education Code, relating to public postsecondary education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 850, as introduced, Block. Public postsecondary education: community college districts: baccalaureate degree pilot program.

Existing law establishes the California Community Colleges, under the administration of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, as one of the segments of public postsecondary education in this state. Existing law requires the board to appoint a chief executive officer, to be known as the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges. Existing law establishes community college districts, administered by governing boards, throughout the state, and authorizes these districts to provide instruction to students at the community college campuses maintained by the districts.

Existing law requires community colleges to offer instruction through, but not beyond, the 2nd year of college and authorizes community colleges to grant associate degrees in arts and science.

This bill would authorize the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to authorize the establishment of one baccalaureate degree pilot program per campus per district. The bill would provide that the baccalaureate degree pilot program shall consist of a limited number of campuses, to be determined by the Chancellor. The bill would require a baccalaureate degree pilot program to expire 8 years after the establishment of the program. The bill would require a participating

district to meet specified requirements, including, but not limited to, offering baccalaureate degrees in a limited number of fields of study, and submitting a report to the Legislature at least one year prior to the expiration of the baccalaureate degree pilot program that would evaluate specified factors.

This bill would also require the governing board of a participating district to perform certain functions and would authorize the governing board to charge baccalaureate degree-seeking students a fee for enrollment in specified courses, which would be required to be expended for the purpose of providing a pilot program. The bill would authorize the governing board of the district to enter into agreements with local businesses and agencies to provide educational services to students participating in a baccalaureate degree pilot program.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) California needs to produce one million more baccalaureate
- 4 degrees than the state currently does to remain economically
- 5 competitive in the coming decades.
- 6 (b) The 21st Century workplace increasingly demands a higher
- 7 level of education in applied fields.
- 8 (c) There is demand for education beyond the associate degree
- 9 level in specific academic disciplines that is not currently being
- 10 met by California's four-year public institutions.
- 11 (d) Community colleges can help fill the gaps in our higher
- 12 education system by granting baccalaureate degrees for a limited
- 13 number of specific areas in order to meet a growing demand for a
- 14 skilled workforce.
- 15 (e) These baccalaureate programs will be limited and will not
- 16 detract from the community colleges' mission to advance
- 17 California's economic growth and global competitiveness through
- 18 education, training, and services that contribute to continuous
- 19 workforce improvement, nor will the programs unnecessarily
- 20 duplicate similar programs offered by nearby four-year institutions.
- 21 (f) Community colleges can provide a quality baccalaureate
- 22 education with lower costs to their students than a traditional

1 four-year university, enabling place-bound local students the  
2 opportunity to earn the baccalaureate degree needed for new job  
3 opportunities and promotion.

4 (g) Twenty one other states, from Florida to Hawaii, already  
5 allow their community colleges to offer baccalaureate degrees.  
6 California is one of the most innovative states in the nation, and  
7 the California Community Colleges will use that same innovative  
8 spirit to produce more health, biotechnology, and other needed  
9 professionals.

10 SEC. 2. Article 3 (commencing with Section 78040) is added  
11 to Chapter 1 of Part 48 of Division 7 of Title 3 of the Education  
12 Code, to read:

13  
14 Article 3. Baccalaureate Degree Pilot Program  
15

16 78040. For the purposes of this article, “district” means any  
17 community college district identified by the Chancellor of the  
18 California Community Colleges as participating in the  
19 baccalaureate degree pilot program. Each district may establish  
20 baccalaureate degree pilot programs pursuant to Section 78041.

21 78041. Notwithstanding Section 66010.4, the Chancellor of  
22 the California Community Colleges may authorize the  
23 establishment of baccalaureate degree pilot programs that meet all  
24 of the eligibility requirements set forth in Section 78042. A pilot  
25 program established pursuant to this section shall expire eight  
26 years after the establishment of the program. For purposes of this  
27 section, a pilot program is established when the first class of  
28 students begins the program. The baccalaureate degree pilot  
29 program shall consist of a limited number of campuses, to be  
30 determined by the Chancellor of the California Community  
31 Colleges.

32 78042. (a) The district shall seek authorization to offer  
33 baccalaureate degree programs through the appropriate  
34 accreditation body.

35 (b) The district shall maintain the primary mission of the  
36 California Community Colleges specified in paragraph (3) of  
37 subdivision (a) of Section 66010.4. The district, as part of the  
38 baccalaureate degree pilot program, shall have the additional  
39 mission to provide high-quality undergraduate education at an  
40 affordable price for students and the state.

(c) The district shall offer one baccalaureate degree per campus in a limited number of fields of study subject to the following requirements, as determined by the governing board of the district:

(1) The district shall identify and document unmet workforce needs in the subject areas of the baccalaureate degrees to be offered and offer baccalaureate degrees in those subject areas possessing unmet workforce needs in the local community.

(2) The baccalaureate degree pilot program shall not unnecessarily duplicate similar programs offered by nearby public postsecondary educational institutions.

(3) The district shall have the expertise, resources, and student interest to offer a quality baccalaureate degree in the chosen field of study.

(d) The district shall maintain separate records for students who are enrolled in courses classified in the upper division and lower division of a baccalaureate program. A student shall be reported as a community college student for enrollment in a lower division course and as a baccalaureate degree program student for enrollment in an upper division course.

(e) The governing board of the district shall do all of the following:

(1) Determine the appropriate governance system for the baccalaureate degree pilot program.

(2) Make decisions regarding the baccalaureate degree pilot program's curriculum, faculty, and facilities.

(3) Establish the level of matriculation, tuition, and other appropriate costs for students enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program.

(f) (1) The governing board of the district may charge baccalaureate degree-seeking students a fee, of an amount to be determined by the governing board, that covers the additional costs imposed by providing a baccalaureate degree pilot program, for enrollment in courses that are not transfer core curriculum courses, as defined in Section 66720.

(2) All fees collected pursuant to this subdivision shall be deposited in the designated fund of the district in accordance with the California Community Colleges Budget and Accounting Manual, and shall be expended for the purpose of providing a baccalaureate degree pilot program.

1 (g) The governing board of the district may enter into  
2 agreements with local businesses and agencies to provide  
3 educational services to students participating in the baccalaureate  
4 degree pilot program.

5 (h) The district shall submit a report to the Legislature at least  
6 one year prior to the expiration of the baccalaureate degree pilot  
7 program pursuant to Section 78041. The report shall examine the  
8 success of the baccalaureate degree pilot program by evaluating  
9 all of the following factors:

10 (1) The percentage of students who complete a baccalaureate  
11 degree, calculated by dividing the number of students who graduate  
12 from the baccalaureate degree pilot program by the number of  
13 students who enrolled in the program.

14 (2) The extent to which the baccalaureate degree pilot program  
15 is self-supporting, such that the student fees charged pursuant to  
16 subdivision (f) cover the costs of the program.

17 (3) Whether there is a problem with finding and paying  
18 instructors for the baccalaureate degree pilot program.

19 (4) Whether there was a decline in enrollment in the California  
20 State University and the University of California as a result of the  
21 baccalaureate degree pilot program.

22 (5) The number of students who received jobs in the area in the  
23 field of study of their baccalaureate degree.

24 (6) The amount of student fees charged pursuant to subdivision  
25 (f) compared to the amount of student fees charged for courses at  
26 the California State University and the University of California.

27 (i) A report submitted pursuant to subdivision (h) shall be  
28 submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government  
29 Code.